

CLAIMS

- 1) An apparatus for processing code comprising:
 - a protocol parser; and,
 - a proscribed code scanner; whereby said protocol parser intercepts instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel and transmits said code for review by said proscribed code scanner.
- 2) An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a translation means whereby said translation means translates said code to authorized program parameters.
- 3) An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a protocol scanner, whereby said protocol parser transmits said instant messaging or peer-to-peer code to said proscribed code scanner through said protocol scanner.
- 4) An apparatus as in claim 1 whereby said proscribed code scanner further comprises a scanning means and an indicator means.
- 5) An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a certification means.
- 6) An apparatus as in claim 4 whereby said indicator means provides an indication of the presence of proscribed code after scanning said intercepted code.
- 7) An apparatus as in claim 1, whereby said proscribed code scanner comprises a malicious code scanner.
- 8) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said protocol parser further comprises a configuration means for configuring interception parameters.
- 9) An apparatus for processing code comprising:
 - a protocol parser; and,

- a proscribed code scanner; whereby said protocol parser intercepts short messaging code on a communications channel and transmits said code for review by said proscribed code scanner.

10) An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein said protocol scanner further comprises a configuration means for configuring interception parameters.

11) An apparatus for processing code comprising:

- a protocol parser;
- a protocol scanner; and,
- a proscribed code scanner comprised of a scanning means and an indicator means;

whereby said protocol parser intercepts instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel and transmits said code to said proscribed code scanner through said protocol scanner.

12) An apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a decryption component, whereby said protocol parser intercepts said instant messaging or peer-to-peer code being transmitted through said communications channel and transfers said code to said decryption component for decryption and scanning by said proscribed code scanner.

13) An apparatus as in claim 12, further comprising an SSL decryption component.

14) An apparatus as in claim 12, further comprising an S/MIME decryption component.

15) An apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising an encryptor, wherein said code, after being processed by said proscribed code scanner, may be encrypted by said encryptor.

16) An apparatus as in claim 12, further comprising an encryptor, wherein said code, after being processed by said proscribed code scanner, may be encrypted by said

encryptor.

17) An apparatus for processing code comprising:

- a protocol parser;
- a proscribed code scanner;
- a protocol scanner;
- a decryption component, whereby said protocol parser intercepts instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel and transfers said code to said decryption component for decryption and scanning by said proscribed code scanner.

18) A method for processing code comprising:

- intercepting instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel;
- parsing said code; and,
- scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code; and,
- providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code.

19) A method as in claim 18 further comprising translating said code to authorized program parameters.

20) A method as in claim 18 further comprising certifying said code.

21) A method as in claim 18 further comprising returning said code to said communication channel if said indicator is negative.

22) A method as in claim 18 further comprising transferring said code to another communication channel.

23) A method as in claim 18 further comprising further indicating the presence of said proscribed code if said indicator is positive.

- 24) A method as in claim 18 wherein intercepting said code further comprises intercepting the code according to configured parameters.
- 25) A method as in claim 18 wherein scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code further comprises scanning said code for the presence of malicious code.
- 26) A method as in claim 18 further comprising decrypting said code.
- 27) A method as in claim 26 further comprising reencrypting said code if said indicator is negative.
- 28) A method as in claim 18 further comprising encrypting said code.
- 29) A method as in claim 26 wherein decrypting said code is preceded by intercepting said code prior to decrypting said code.
- 30) A method as in claim 26 wherein said code is secured through SSL encryption.
- 31) A method as in claim 26 wherein said code is secured through S/MIME encryption.
- 32) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of:
 - reencrypting said code if said indicator is negative.
- 33) A method as in claim 26 further comprising providing a separate system inserted in said communications channel, and with at least one of said steps of intercepting said code; decrypting said code; scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code, and providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code, occurring on said separate machine.
- 34) A method for processing code comprising:
 - intercepting instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel;

- parsing said code;
- scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code; and,
- providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code.

35) A method for processing code comprising:

- intercepting instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel;
- decrypting said code
- parsing said code;
- scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code; and,
- providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code.

36) A method for processing code comprising:

- intercepting instant messaging or peer-to-peer code on a communications channel;
- parsing said code;
- scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code; and,
- providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code.